

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend and replace Page 23, second paragraph, of the originally filed application to read as follows:

In the case of multiple carrier transmission, such as DMT, the fractional encoder 876 can be used to encode a fractional, or non-integer number of bits onto each DMT carrier tone in accordance with that disclosed in commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application ~~Serial No. XXX,~~ Serial No. 09/717,436, entitled "FRACTIONAL BIT RATE ENCODING IN A DISCRETE MULTI-TONE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM," (~~Attorney Docket No. 61607-1340~~). The fractional encoder 876 operates on groups of words to encode a fractional (i.e., non-integer) number of bits on each tone. The fractional encoder 876 generates n constellations for n carrier tones simultaneously, in order to add a fraction of a bit to each carrier tone.